

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

MINUTES

June 28, 2019

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:07 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Mike Strain, Kent Brown, Devin Davis, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Bill Waguespack, and Calvin Viator

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with seven members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the April 1, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2019 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Rene Simon updated the board on the status of the Lacassine Industrial Park Rail Logix has added line to the existing rail to accommodate three more railcars for South LA Rice Facility. Rail Logix continues to move cars into and out of Lacassine Industrial Park.
- Commissioner Strain is working with New Orleans Cold Storage to find funding to improve the current Jordan Road facility to increase capacity. The Port of Baton Rouge was funded \$20 million from the State of Louisiana to expand their rail services.
- Soybean crushing facility coming to West Baton Rouge.

OLD BUSINESS

a. 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program

Restore LA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved reallocating \$10 million to the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program.

b. Lease of former LDAF Seedling Nursery at the Monroe office complex

The lease agreement was executed on June 14, 2019. The lessee has the option to renew for the next five years.

c. LDAF/LAFA's Louisiana Certified Programs

Deana Erdey and Jeremy Hendrix updated the board on the continued growth of the Certified Louisiana Program which currently has 300 members. The new Certified Beverage program has 25 members. Certified Louisiana Day was held at the Capitol on May 28, 2019 and was a huge success. The Certified Louisiana Program is planning to create a cookbook with its members this year. The program will also be participating in the Louisiana Restaurant Association annual expo. There will be 16 companies participating in the Certified Louisiana booths.

d. Lease of approximately 2.6 acres to Lacassine Operating Company, LLC (formerly Equilibrium Catalyst, Inc.)

The lease is complete as of April 26, 2019. Construction set to start in approximately 5 weeks.

e. Hire realtor to market available space at Opelousas property

Working with realtor and waiting on contract to come back.

f. Purchase property currently being leased by the Office of Forestry for the Leesville Standby

LAFa is still in negotiations with the seller, with nothing has been finalized at this time.

g. Acquire property for Food Distribution Warehouse

Closing should be completed mid-July.

h. Bid for USDA Service Center in Iberia Parish

At this time, the project will likely not move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of the FY 20 Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to accept the proposed LAFa budget. It was seconded by Mr. Parker and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the proposed Indian Creek. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack and passed unanimously.

b. Changes to rental agreement and expenses for all LDAF occupied

There will now be an all-encompassing lease agreement between LDAF and LAFa for properties being leased.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marion Fox updated the board on the completion of the new Gator Chateau in Jennings and invited the board to visit.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously at 11:28 AM.